

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 CPR-01 SY-05 OPR-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /063 W
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R 281310Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 678

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 0321

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PDIP, MI, US

SUBJECT: ENTRY OF USIS LIBRARY/ARREST OF LIBRARIAN

REF: A. STATE 041181 B. LILONGWE 235

1. APPRECIATE VERY MUCH REFTEL A AND CONCERN DEMONSTRATED FOR FUNSANI'S WELFARE. OUR ADMITTEDLY CAUTIOUS APPROACH STEMS FROM THIS SAME CONCERN. USIA MAY RECALL CASE OF TWO MALAWIAN CIVIL SERVANTS WHO IN 1973 WERE HIRED BY PAO TO MONITOR VOA BROADCASTS IN THEIR FREE TIME. UNBEKNOWNST TO HIM LOCAL LAW PROHIBITS CIVIL SERVANTS FROM ANY FORM OF "MOONLIGHTING" AND IN 1974 THESE MEN WERE DETAINED (WE PRESUMED ALSO THAT THEY WERE SUSPECTED OF SOME TYPE OF ESPIONAGE OR OTHER ACTIVITY AGAINST THE GOM). UNDER INSTRUCTION AMB. BURDETT MADE VIGOROUS REPRESENTATIONS ON THEIR BEHALF TO PRESIDENT BANDA, EXPLAINING THE INNOCENT NATURE OF WHAT THEY WERE DOING AND ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT. BANDA AGRILY AND BRUSQUELY REJECTED HIS ARGUMENTS AND THE MEN ARE STILL IN DETENTION AS BEST WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE. RECENTLY BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER SUMMED UP FOR ME HIS OPINION THAT RELEASES OF DETAINEES (AND HE WAS REFERRING TO BRITISH SUBJECTS, ONE OF WHOM WAS HELD FOR 2 YEARS INCLUDING FOR 6 MONTHS AFTER THEN FONSEC CALLAGHAN HAD PERSONALLY INTERVENED WITH BANDA) ARE BEST OBTAINED BY MAKING THE CASE ON THEIR BEHALF AND THEN WAITING WITH PATIENCE AND AN OCCASIONAL LOW KEY
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REMINDER OF INTEREST; THAT TO FORCE A CASE WITH VIGOROUS PROTESTS IS TO ENSURE BANDA WILL GET HIS BACK UP WITH A COUNTERPRODUCTIVE RESULT.

2. HAVING NOTED THE ABOVE FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND, I AGREE THAT WE SHOULD NOT REGARD THE CASE AS CLOSED. ON FEBRUARY 25 I AGAIN RAISED THE MATTER OF A

RESPONSE TO OUR AIDE MEMOIRE WITH PERMSEC KACHINGWE. HE WAS DIFFIDENT IN HIS COMMENT AND CLEARLY WISHES THE WHOLE THING WOULD VANISH, BUT HIS ATTITUDE WAS NOT UNFRIENDLY AND HE DID PROMISE TO TAKE UP THE MATTER AGAIN WITH THE "PROPER OFFICIALS". I EMPHASIZED THAT FUNSANI STILL ON OUR PAYROLL, THAT PLANS FOR VARIOUS USIS OPERATIONS NOW HELD IN ABEYANCE, THAT QUESTION REMAINS RE LIBRARY FINANCES, ETC. HE INDICATED HIS OWN HOPE THAT PAO WILL BE PERMITTED TO TALK WITH FUNSANI AND "PERHAPS HE THEN CAN LEARN SOMTHING ABOUT HIS PROSPECTS".

3. WITH REGARD TO SUGGESTION REF A, PARA A, I RECOMMEND AGAINST FORMAL NOTE. IF WE PRESS POINTS AS SUGGESTED THIS PARA IN THIS MANNER WE RUN THE RISK THAT THE MATTER WILL BE ESCALATED AT ONCE TO PRESIDENT BANDA AND WE CAN BE SURE THAT KAMWANA WILL COME UP WITH A STRONG CASE AGAINST FUNSANI. TO CITE AND EMPHASIZE ARTICLE 38 WOULD BE TO PROVIDE GOM WITH A STRAWMAN SINCE LIBRARY IS STILL CONTINUING TO FUNCTION AND WORD "UNDULY" VERY RELATIVE TERM AND DIFFICULT FOR US TO SUBSTANTIATE.

4. HOWEVER, IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE A SATISFACROTY REPLY TO OUR AIDE MEMOIRE THIS WEEK, I WOULD WELCOME SUPPORT FROM AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE IN CALLING IN CHARGE (REF A, PARA B) TO REVIEW POINTS MADE IN AIDE MEMOIRE AND TO NOTE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH USG VIEWS CASE AS YOU PROPOSE.

5. AGREE WITH REF A, PARA C THAT TOO SOON TO HIRE REPLACE-
MENT FOR FUNSANI AND THAT WE SHOULD KEEP HIM ON PAYROLL AND OPERATE LIBRARY AS SUGGESTED. THIS POINT OBVIOUSLY IMPRESSED KACHINGWE THAT WE HAVE NOT GIVEN UP. HOPEFULLY IT MIGHT
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HELP IN GETTING ACCESS TO FUNSANI FOR PAO ON REGULAR BASIS IF DETENTION IS PROTRACTED BUT WOULD NOTE THIS WOULD BE UNPRECEDENTED IN LOCAL EXPERIENCE. YOU WILL BE RELIEVED TO KNOW IN ANY CASE THAT FUNSANI (WHO INCIDENTALLY CAME WITH US IN LATE 1973 RUNS LITTLE RISK OF PHYSICAL MISTREATMENT WHILE IN DETENTION.

6. WITH REGARD TO REF A, PARA D, I WOULD BE PREPARED TO FOLLOW THIS COURSE OF ACTION IF I THOUGHT IT WOULD HAVE ANY IMPACT. I DO NOT THINK IT WOULD. THE PEOPLE WHO WILL DECIDE FUNSANI'S CASE COULD NOT CARE LESS WHETHER WE OPEN A USIS CENTER IN LILONGWE OR NOT. THE PEOPLE WE WOULD DEPRIVE ARE THE YOUNGER CIVIL SERVANTS AND OTHERS WHO ARE NOT PART OF THE POWER STRUCTURE AND FOR WHOM OUR NEW CENTER WILL PROVIDE AT LEAST A BREATH OF OUTSIDE AIR. HOWEVER, SINCE THE OPENING HAS BEEN DELAYED INTERMINABLY FOR SEVERAL REASONS, I WOULD BE QUITE WILLING TO USE THIS PLOY IN THE WEEKS WHICH YET REMAIN BEFORE IT CAN BE OPENED IN ANY CASE.

7. IF WE MAKE NO PROGRESS IN THE WEEKS AHEAD WITH COURSE
OF ACTION OUTLINED ABOVE, I WOULD PROPOSE I BE INSTRUCTED TO
RAISE THE CASE WITH PRESIDENT BANDA. THE RISK IN THIS I HAVE
MADE EVIDENT, BUT PRESUMABLY BY THEN WE WILL KNOW THAT IT WOULD
NOT ALTER FUNSANI'S PROSPECTS SUBSTANTIALY EVEN IF WE FAIL.

STEVENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770069-1167
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From: LILONGWE
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: ENTRY OF USIS LIBRARY/ARREST OF LIBRARIAN
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PDIP, MI, US, (FUNSANI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6a8817c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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